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Earth Day Coalition provides education, inspires leadership, and encourages action for a healthy environment.

December 11, 2002

Livestock and Seed Programs Agriculture Marketing Service U.S. Department of Agriculture Stop 0249, Room 2092-S Washington, DC 20250-0249

Dear USDA,

Earth Day Coalition is opposed to irradiated food entering the National School Lunch Program for the following reasons:

- -Parents will not know if their children are eating irradiated foods due to lack of labeling;
- -Our children deserve the healthiest, freshest and cleanest foods available. The irradiation of food cannot ensure these factors:
- -The the long-term health effects of serving children irradiated foods is not known.

We urge you not to buy irradiated food for the commodity purchase programs, which includes the National School Lunch Program. Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Chris Trepal

Executive Director

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